

# C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

May 23, 2017

By Email: [publicinformation@sao.texas.gov](mailto:publicinformation@sao.texas.gov)

Office of General Counsel  
Texas State Auditor's Office  
P.O. Box 12067  
Austin, TX 78711-2067

**Re: Public Information Act Request**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability ("CfA") makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to the Texas Public Information Act. TX Gov't Code §§ 552.001 *et seq.*

First, CfA seeks any and all communications to, from, or between the State Auditor's Office and any employee or representative of the Heidi Group and/or the name under which it sometimes operates, the Wellness Coalition,<sup>1</sup> including but not limited to its leader, Carol Everett.

Second, CfA seeks any communications to, from, or between the State Auditor's Office regarding the Heidi Group, the Wellness Coalition, and/or Carol Everett.

This request is for records from January 1, 2015 to the present.

By way of background, in March 2012, Governor Rick Perry announced that the state of Texas would provide funding for a family planning program that had previously been funded largely by the federal government.<sup>2</sup> Ms. Everett supported Gov. Perry's proposal.<sup>3</sup> In August 2016, Texas Health and Human Services ("HHS") awarded the Heidi Group \$1.6 million through the Healthy Texas Women program.<sup>4</sup> Also in August, Rep. Jessica Farrar, and the nonprofit Progress Texas, called on the State Auditor's Office to investigate the Heidi Group's contract.<sup>5</sup> On March 14, 2017, the *Associated Press* reported the Heidi Group had largely failed to deliver the services outlined in its contract with HHS.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Edgar Walters, *Anti-Abortion Advocate's Group Receives Women's Health Grant*, *The Texas Tribune*, August 10, 2016, available at <https://www.texastribune.org/2016/08/10/texas-anti-abortion-advocate-group-health-grant/>.

<sup>2</sup> Emily Ramshaw and Thanh Tan, *Feds to Halt Funding for Women's Health Program*, *The Texas Tribune*, March 15, 2012, available at <https://www.texastribune.org/2012/03/15/feds-halt-funding-womens-health-program/>.

<sup>3</sup> Thanh Tan, *Anti-Abortion Advocates Counter Planned Parenthood Media Blitz*, *The Texas Tribune*, March 8, 2012, available at <https://www.texastribune.org/2012/03/08/anti-abortion-leaders-blast-planned-parenthood/>.

<sup>4</sup> Walters, *The Texas Tribune*, Aug. 10, 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Andrea Zelinski, *Lawmaker calls for probe of grant to anti-abortion group*, *Houston Chronicle*, August 15, 2016, available at <http://www.chron.com/news/politics/texas/article/Women-s-health-chairwoman-calls-for-investigation->

Where possible, please produce records electronically, in PDF or TIF format on a CD-ROM. CfA seeks records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs. This request includes any letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. This request also includes any attachments to these records.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, please state the basis of the exemption. TX Gov't Code § 552.101. Please explain in writing and with particularity the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure. In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. TX Gov't Code § 552.267. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200. TX Gov't Code § 552.2615.

Please promptly produce the requested information. If, however, production cannot occur within 10 business days, please certify that fact to us and provide a time when the information will be available. TX Gov't Code § 552.221. If you are unable to meet this statutorily required time period, or foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the State Auditor's Office to process it.

If possible, please email the records to me at [dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org](mailto:dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org). If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 660 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., Suite 303, Washington, D.C. 20003.

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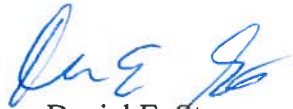
[9143667.php](#); Mary Tuma, *Anti-Choice Group to Receive \$1.6 Million Health Grant*, *The Austin Chronicle*, August 15, 2016, available at <https://www.austinchronicle.com/daily/news/2016-08-15/anti-choice-group-to-receive-1-6-million-health-grant/>.

<sup>6</sup> Paul Weber, *Get by without Planned Parenthood? One Texas effort stumbles*, *Associated Press*, March 14, 2017, available at [http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/3d281c11a96b4ad082fe88aa0db04305/Article\\_2017-03-14-US--Health%20Overhaul-Planned%20Parenthood-Texas/id-e17af389024b46cab46ed22a328bf6c6](http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/3d281c11a96b4ad082fe88aa0db04305/Article_2017-03-14-US--Health%20Overhaul-Planned%20Parenthood-Texas/id-e17af389024b46cab46ed22a328bf6c6).

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Stevens", is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel E. Stevens  
Executive Director